

REMARKS

This application is a divisional application of parent patent application serial No. 09/277,582. Claims 31, 47, and 57 are pending. Claims 1 - 30, 31 - 46, 48 - 56, and 58 - 59 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully request an action on the merits.

The parent application (serial No 09/277,582) to this divisional application was originally filed on March 26, 1999 with 59 claims. In an Office Action dated November 30, 2001, included as Attachment 1, the Examiner identified that claims 1 - 59 were subject to a restriction requirement. The Examiner identified that two distinct inventions were described (Group I and Group II). Group I, i.e., claims 1 - 31, 40 - 47, and 50 - 57, was drawn to a conversion of an input voice signal into an output voice signal, and Group II, i.e., claims 32 - 39, 48 - 49, and 58 - 59, was drawn to discriminating between a voiced state and an unvoiced state of a voice signal. The Examiner identified four patentably distinct species in Group I (Species A, Species B, Species C, and Species D as being subject to the restriction requirement. In Group 1, Claims 1 - 12, 40, and 50 are directed to species A; claims 13 - 20, 41 - 44, 51 - 54 are directed towards Species B; Claims 21 - 30; 45 - 46; and 55- 56 are directed to Species C; and Claims 31, 47, and 57 are directed towards Species D.

In an Amendment filed on June 18, 2002, included as Attachment 2, Applicants elected species A (claims 1 - 12, 40, and 50 without traverse) and canceled claims 13 - 39, 41 - 49 and 51 - 59 without prejudice.

In the present application, Applicants are pursuing original claims 31, 47, and 57, i.e., Species D, from the original parent application. In simultaneously filed

applications, Applicants are separately pursuing claims directed towards Species B and Species C.

Applicants have enclosed herewith a PTO-Form 1449 identifying references patentably relevant to this invention. The references identified on the PTO-Form 1449 include references included in Information Disclosure Statements filed in the parent application and references cited by the Examiner during the prosecution of the parent application.

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification, as follows, at page 2, line 1.

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application serial No. 09/277,582, filed March 26, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 30, 32 - 46, 48 - 56, and 58 - 59.